



SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2022 AT GREAT BRIDGEFORD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr David Price (Chairman), Cllr Carole Allen, Cllr John Busby, Cllr Mark Hayward, Cllr Mark Turnbull, Cllr Mark Hodgkins, Cllr Neil Brown, Cllr Richard Wilkes

In attendance: Stacey Worden (Clerk) + 32 members of the public

Apologies: None

1. Introduction and welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed residents and councillors.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 15 April 2019

It was resolved that the minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. Matters raised by parishioners

a) Church Lane Derrington

It was requested that the Parish Council writes to the Borough Council to enquire why an extension to the Millennium Green was permitted without provision for adequate visitor parking.

b) Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment

It was noted the parish lacked outdoor exercise equipment, as installed in Gnosall and recently in Eccleshall. The Parish Council was asked to consider installation of similar equipment. Cost was advised at approximately £6k for 6 pieces of equipment (plus installation costs) and funding streams could include the Severn Trent Community Fund, Co-Op Community Fund and Cllr. Pert's Community Fund. The resident requested it to be added to the July agenda and volunteered to help with a proposal if required.

c) Footpath 20, Norcroft Farm.

Issues were noted with the route, including a missing bridleway sign, and gravel on the path from farm vehicles. It was advised that these issues have been taken up with the County Rights of Way officer and a response is awaited from the landlord.

d) Play Facilities at Seighford

Currently this consists of a small patch of land and the resident felt it had limited facilities. The Council was asked to consider the installation of additional play equipment. The question was also raised regarding the possibility of acquiring more land for play provision. It was observed that numbers of young children in Seighford have increased and this would be of great benefit to the area.

e) Noise monitoring at the Drive Me facility

The Council was asked about the current provision for noise monitoring at the facility and if the Parish Council could enquire of the Borough what actions are ongoing. It was noted that the facility has been handed over to a new occupier, 6th Gear. Borough Cllr. Winnington believed

there is a new regime in place to measure the noise of the vehicles before they are used but he will speak to the environmental team at the Borough to confirm.

f) Installation of additional Polytunnels, Derrington

A resident email was read to the meeting in relation to planning application 20/32222/FUL, erection of polyhouses and ground source heat recovery for the production of soft fruit on a permanent basis. Concerns were raised about the suitability of the application due to potential impact on the environment (visual, biodiversity and hydrological) and an increase in vehicle activity. Objections have been lodged by over 100 residents. The resident asked why the Parish Council did not object on any of the above grounds and as the owner, a councillor, has started the work prior to approval being granted, what actions will be taken by the Parish Council to address this breach of planning law. The Parish Council noted that the environmental concerns raised had been considered – flooding was not expected to be an issue as the structures would be taken down in winter, visual impact was expected to be low and access traffic would not be increased. The matter of planning permission is between the councillor and the Borough Council as the Planning authority. The councillor in question noted that all requested surveys had been undertaken and as the plants were ordered a decision was made to proceed on balance of risk.

g) Village Green, Seighford

It was observed that there had been no resolution in handing over the ownership of the green to the Parish Council, and as the original householders had now left, was there a need to continue the dispute over ownership. The Parish Council noted it was awaiting a response from the planning department and it is still hoped the land will be transferred.

h) Chicken Farm, Seighford

There is an issue with plastic litter blowing across the airfield and catching in the fencing. The Parish Council were asked to write to the owner, Mr. Chris Dickenson, to ask for support to stop the littering.

i) Footpath Access on land at Bridgeford Hurst, Great Bridgeford

Concerns were raised about access to a permissive footpath where there is a locked gate, on a route across land at Bridgeford Hurst, Great Bridgeford. It was advised that the permissive path is still available and there is a sign on a side gate adjoining the south west side of Eccleshall Road to advise the route and to request any walkers register via an email prior to accessing the route.

j) Speeding through Seighford

Residents had noted an increase in speeding through Seighford and requested the installation of traffic calming measures. A resident meeting is planned for the 11th May to which a member of the Green Party, Emma Carter, will be attending.

k) Other Road issues

- a. The Seighford to Woodseaves road has had no white markings for over a year
- b. Residents had not been given enough advance warning of the closure of the main Seighford road prior to commencement of County works. A resident advised it had been published in the newspaper 4 weeks prior to the closure.

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented the Parish Council's Annual Report for 2021/22 thanking the parish councillors for their support and welcoming the new councillors. He highlighted the main achievements over the last 12 months including installation of new play equipment at Great

Bridgeford, the conversion of an existing Speed Monitoring Devices to solar and the purchase of an additional unit. Activity has been ongoing in the areas of raising issues to the relevant authorities, responding to planning applications, inspections and maintenance of playing fields, organisation of civic amenity visits, amongst other routine functions. It was noted that since the last parish meeting, a Speedwatch group has been established in Great Bridgeford.

He also thanked the groups and individuals who support the Parish Council.

6. To receive reports from local community groups (where available):

Churches:

(a) St Chad's Church, Seighford

A report was provided on current developments and included the following:

- The diocese is feeling the financial impact from the loss of income during the pandemic
- Of the 39 community members, less than half attend regular worship.
- A new mower was purchased at a cost of £660

The vicar thanked the Parish Council for its award of a churchyard maintenance grant and asked to be considered for a grant this year.

(b) St Matthews Church, Derrington

A report was provided on current developments and included the following:

- A project to install handrails to improve access to the chancel has been completed
- There have been reduced opportunities to fundraise, but the first event for some time was held in November 2021
- A new minister is now in post, who joined in July 2020

The Parish Council was thanked for its award of a churchyard maintenance grant and asked to be considered for a grant this year.

Village Hall Committees:

(c) Derrington Village Hall

A report was provided and included the following current developments:

- A new boiler was installed after the breakdown of the old central heating system in 2020
- An online booking system is now live which enables availability to be viewed and booking requests to be submitted electronically
- Internal refurbishments include a new area for the community library, removal of old seating, redecoration of the snooker area and halls, new internal noticeboards and refurbishment of the external board, new energy efficient lighting (internal and external), a new projector and new defibrillator
- The hall is now a charitable organisation
- new projects in the pipeline include improved disabled access and replacement of windows and chairs

(d) Great Bridgeford Village Hall

A report was provided and included the following current developments:

- All regular hirers have returned after sporadic periods of opening during lockdown
- Refurbishments include complete redecoration, new floors, installation of LED lighting, Wi-Fi, a security camera and new projector screen

- An open day was held in June 2021, opened by the Deputy Mayor of Stafford. The social event included showcasing of activities run by regular hirers.

(e) Seighford Village Hall

A report was provided and included the following updates:

- The hall has been opening weekly for a book swap
- Maintenance work has been undertaken to the exterior and guttering
- The Christmas tree was installed as usual
- The Friday morning café is re-opening from this week
- A new treasurer has been appointed

Community Speed Watch Groups:

(f) Derrington

A report was provided and included the following updates:

- 3 locations are used on a rotational basis, with 1 main area of use
- Pre Covid there were approximately 200+ cars monitored, with 7-10 exceeding the speed limit. Post Covid traffic numbers are down to 100+ cars but still 7-10 speeding
- Currently there are 4 volunteers in post from the original team of 6, and more volunteers would be welcome. Training is provided and the commitment is 1hr every 2 weeks.
- When a vehicle is found to be speeding, the team completes a form to send to the police who send a letter. If the speeding is very excessive, they will attend to the issue immediately.

As part of the discussion on speeding, residents asked if the Council would consider the provision of a speed indication device in Seighford. Residents will look to provide evidence to support the request.

(g) Great Bridgeford

A report was provided and included the following updates:

- The group started in September 2021 and consisted of 8 volunteers, with 3 more joining in 2022.
- There are 6 locations identified, and 3 people work a shift of 1hr each time.
- The team are required to inform the police of the activity prior to commencement.
- Traffic volume on both the Newport and Eccleshall Roads are around 500-600 vehicles within the hour.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm